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Public Affairs Section

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U.S. Donates Medical Equipment to La Paz Local Government and 27 Municipalities

The U.S. Embassy delivered a donation consisting of medical equipment, computers, and furniture for an estimated value of more than one million bolivianos (USD 143,000) to strengthen the departmental government of La Paz, the La Paz Departmental Health Services (SEDES, in Spanish), and 27 municipalities in the department of La Paz under the Health System Strengthening Program (Fortalessa/UNICEF). This strengthening project is carried out by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The delivery ceremony was held at the La Paz Governor's Office and was presided over by Minister of Health and Sports Juan Carlos Calvimontes and the La Paz SEDES Technical Director Gustavo Marconi. UNICEF Representative Marcoluigi Corsi, and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Larry Memmott also attended the ceremony. Memmott highlighted the support provided by the Minister of Health to the work of USAID, whose programs are focused directly on backing the Bolivian National Health Policy. Memmott said: "Without excellent partners in the Ministry of Health, the Departmental Government, local municipalities, SEDES, UNICEF, and others, it would have been impossible for us to implement these projects. Together, we are saving lives."

This donation supports the implementation of the Bolivian Intercultural Community-Based and Family Health System (SAFCI, in Spanish) which seeks to foster a participatory and operational management at all levels of the health system, to increase access and improve quality of health care with a focus on intercultural aspects, and to empower the public to demand and exercise their health care rights.

The USAID-funded Fortalessa/UNICEF project is implemented in accordance with the National Health Policy jointly with the Health and Sports Ministry, SEDES, and the departmental governments of Chuquisaca and La Paz. This effort includes 57 municipalities in both departments. A first donation was delivered in September 2012 for an amount of Bs.1,206,223, followed by a second donation of Bs. 1,774,706, totaling approximately 3 million bolivianos (USD 431,000). These donations aim to improve the Bolivian health care system, especially benefiting mothers, children, and teenagers, and for tuberculosis treatment and prevention.